LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government Accountability and Oversight Wednesday, December 16, 2009 4:00 P.M.
Third Floor, City Hall

Present: CM Downard

Vice Chair: CM King (Left at 5:00 p.m.)

Members: CM Kramer, CM Ward-Pugh, CM Fleming, CM Brent Ackerson

and Robert Henderson

Chairman Downard began the meeting by introducing the members and non-members of the committee that were present. A quorum was established.

Chairman Downard gave the following statement: The Ethics Tipline is available to anonymously report concerns of unethical or illegal actions by employees, contractor, or suppliers of Louisville Metro Government. It is not intended to replace Metro Call – 311 or 754-LMPD, which is the Police Department. The Ethics Tipline is 888-226-2264 or you may report via the internet at www.reportlineweb.com/Louisville or www.reportlineweb.com/Louisville or www.louisvilleky.gov/internalaudit/

AGENDA

5- R-249-12-09 A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO

AMEND KRS 67C.105(6) REGARDING A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF LOUISVILLE METRO

MAYOR.

Status: In-Committee

Committee: Government Accountability & Oversight

Primary Sponsor: Mary C. Woolridge

Motion to Approve made by Kevin Kramer and seconded by Tina Ward-Pugh.

Discussion: CM Woolridge spoke stating this resolution is regarding when the Mayor's Office is vacant due to death, resignation, or removal, the President of the Metro Council would serve as Mayor temporarily until the Council or the Governor appoints another Mayor for the unexpired term. Bill Warner, Assistant County Attorney was present to speak and answer questions. The following was discussed:

- The Council has 30 days from the vacancy to appoint a Mayor
- If the Council does not appoint a Mayor within 30 days the Governor would fill the vacancy
- Time to be served is for the unexpired term

Motion to Amend Section 1 (6) as follows made by Tina Ward-Pugh and seconded by Kevin Kramer:

• (6) In case the office of mayor becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or removal, then the President of the Metro Council shall serve as temperary acting mayor until the members of the legislative council are able to hold an election to fill the vacancy. for the unexpired term. The members of the legislative council of the consolidated local government shall by a majority vote of the membership of the council elect a qualified person to fill the vacancy in the office of mayor not later than thirty (30) days after the date on which the vacancy-occurs for the unexpired term. The members of the legislative body of the consolidated local government may elect one (1) of their members to serve as temporary mayor until they are able to hold the election to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. If the legislative council fails to elect a person to fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, the Governor shall fill the vacancy in the office by appointment of a qualified person for the unexpired term.

The Amendment passed.

The following was also discussed:

- When the Council President steps in and serves as Mayor, the Council District would not have representation
- The Majority Caucus Chair would become Council President
- The Council needs to express the intent that the Council District is not considered vacant during the time the Council President is serving as acting Mayor

Election of a Council Person by the Council

The County Attorney will get an amendment together regarding the Council District not being vacant for a possible floor amendment.

By voice vote, the Resolution as amended was sent to **Old Business**.

Special Items For Discussion

<u>Discussion of the purposed Emergency Ordinance Amending the Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances</u> Section 38.09 relating to abandoned property classified as real property.

Tony Lindauer, Property Valuation Administration (PVA); Tina Heavrin, Mayors Office; and John Schardein, Assistant County Attorney, were present to speak and answer questions. The following was discussed:

- Because property is abandoned, records are hard to find on who owns the property
- Some feel they do not have due process
- Owners want to be able to pay taxes
- Letters went out but not all reached the owners due to having wrong addresses
- Two major thing that were wrong
 - The IPL List was wrong
 - Property was bought after January 1
- Being able to correct the bills after they have gone out
- Can appeal the bill if it was incorrect through November 30th
- If someone buys a house that had been foreclosed on they have no way of knowing about the abandoned urban property tax
- Need to pass so the people that need to appeal the tax decision can
- Will put in place an appeals process that would go until November 30, 2010
- Dilapidated Houses
- Need to help people that are trying to do what they are supposed to do
- Vacant Properties Review Board cannot return taxes
- Getting properties back on the tax rolls
- If people have paid the triple tax in error, they can get the over charged taxes back from the Sheriff's Office
- Understaffing of Code Enforcement

CM Kramer voiced his concerns regarding emergency ordinances.

2- R-214-10-09 A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE TERMS THE MAYOR OF LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT MAY SERVE.

Status: In Committee - Held

Committee: Government Accountability & Oversight

Primary Sponsor: Brent Ackerson

Motion to Approve made by Brent Ackerson and seconded by Robert Henderson.

Discussion: CM Ackerson spoke stating this resolution would change the Mayoral terms from three consecutive terms to two consecutive terms. The following was discussed:

- Will have the chance to have new leadership in the Community with new ideas
- The Mayor is a Public Service, not a career
- Term coinciding with the Governor's election
- Philosophical differences
- May need to have this for Metro Council terms also
- Deal with resolutions issue by issue and then possibly putting them together as one document to send to the State Legislature.
- Three terms vs. two terms for the Mayor
- Transition period

Motion to Amend Section 2 as follows was made by Tina Ward-Pugh and seconded by Kenneth C. Fleming.

• The mayor shall be nominated and elected in partisan elections for a term of four (4) years in the same election years as other local government officials the Governor as regulated by the regular election laws of the Commonwealth. The mayor shall assume office on the first Monday in January following his or her election. He or she shall serve until a successor qualifies and may serve for no more than two (2) consecutive terms after which time he or she shall be prohibited from running for election or being appointed as mayor for a period of at least four (4) years.

Motion to Table made by Tina Ward-Pugh and seconded by Kenneth C. Fleming.

By voice vote, this item was **Tabled**.

3- R-239-11-09 A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO

AMEND KRS 67C.105(6) REGARDING A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF LOUISVILLE METRO

MAYOR.

Status: In-Committee

Committee: Government Accountability & Oversight

Primary Sponsor: Kelly Downard

Discussion: This item was pulled per the Sponsor. This item is now dead.

4- R-241-12-09 A RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 8 OF THE RULES OF THE

LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Status: In-Committee

Committee: Government Accountability & Oversight

Primary Sponsor:

Marianne Butler Robert Henderson

Discussion: This item was Held in Committee.

6- O-36-03-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON

COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES [LMCO] RELATING TO ETHICS.

(Reintroduced 9-10-09)

Status: In Committee - Held

Committee: Government Accountability & Oversight

Primary Sponsor:

Marianne Butler Jon Ackerson

Discussion: This item remained Held in Committee.

7- O-156-09-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON

COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES [LMCO] RELATING TO ETHICS

Status: In Committee - Held

Committee: Government Accountability & Oversight

Primary Sponsor: Kenneth C. Fleming

Discussion: This item remained Held in Committee.

Motion to adjourn made by Robert Henderson and seconded by Kenneth C. Fleming. Without objection the Meeting adjourned at 5:34 P.M.

*NOTE: Items sent to the Consent Calendar or Old Business will be heard before the full Council at the Metro Council Meeting on December 17, 2009.

KQG